

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04141 231541Z

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 4141

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: CAPTAIN JOAO TOMAZ ROSA ON POLITICAL MANEUVERING

REF: (A) LISBON 2017; (B) LISBON 2916; (C) LISBON A-149

SUMMARY: ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) MEMBER CAPTAIN JOAO PEDRO TOMAZ ROSA DESCRIBES VIEWS OF "MODERATES" WITHIN AFM AS BEING "MORE TO WEST THAN TO THE EAST." HE CLAIMS TO BE PART OF GROUP "BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND PCP" WHICH COULD SERVE AS RALLYING POINT FOR NON-COMMUNIST AFM OFFICERS. HE ALSO CLAIMS THAT THERE IS SENTIMENT AMONG SOME AFM OFFICERS FAVORABLE TO REMOVING PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES BY FORCE IF NECESSARY AND THAT CONDITIONS WILL BE RIPE FOR SUCH A MOVE IN SEPTEMBER. ROSA SOUGHT COMMENTS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS. END SUMMARY

1. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES TOPICS DISCUSSED BY CAPTAIN

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04141 231541Z

JOAO PEDRO TOMAZ ROSA DURING MEETINGS ON JULY 10 AND 21.

CAPTAIN TOMAZ ROSA, ACTIVE IN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND ARMED FORCES ASSEMBLY, HE CLAIMS TO REPRESENT VIEWS OF "MODERATE" GROUP WITHIN AFM.

2. TOMAZ ROSA EXPLAINS "MODERATE" POSITION WITHIN AFM AS "MORE TO THE WEST THAN TO THE EAST, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN NATO AND NEUTRALISM." TOMAZ ROSA STATES THAT PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND PARTY RETURNED FROM OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROMANIA WITH VERY POOR IMPRESSION AND ASSERTS THAT MOST AFM OFFICERS STILL THINKING OF GOVERNMENTAL MODEL ALONG LINES OF YUGOSLAVIA AND SWEDEN.

3. ROSA'S CONTACTS: TOMAZ ROSA STATES MOST AFM OFFICERS CONSIDER SOCIALIST PARTY NON-REVOLUTIONARY, BOURGEOIS, AND REJECT IDENTIFICATION WITH SOCIALISTS. HE CLAIMS TO BE IN CONTACT WITH GROUP OF NON-COMMUNIST LEFTIST OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS WHICH COULD BE NUCLEUS AROUND WHICH AFM OFFICERS COULD RALLY. POLITICAL ORIENTATION WOULD BE "BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND PCP." GROUP REPUTEDLY INCLUDES AFM SPOKESMAN VASCO LOURENCO, MINISTERS MELO ANTUNES, MARIO MURTEIRA, JOAO CRAVINHO, AND SECRETARIES OF STATE JORGE SAMPAIO, MARTINS PEREIRA, ANTUNES DE CARVALHO, PEDRO COELHO AND ANTONIO MACHADO RODRIGUES, A MIXTURE OF SOCIALISTS, EX-MES, AND MDP LEADERS. TOMAZ ROSA SOUGHT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE FOR FORMATION NUCLEUS.

4. ROSA ON SOCIALISTS: TOMAZ ROSA CLAIMS THAT HE IN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH MARIO SOARES AND OTHER PS LEADERS. SOCIALIST PARTY HAS FEW WEAPONS AND LIMITED CAPABILITY FOR VIOLENCE.

5. AZORES: ROSA ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE INSIDE INFORMATION THAT PCP HOPEFUL THAT AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT WILL TAKE OVERT ACTION AS PCP EXPECTS IT WOULD BENEFIT FROM RESULTING WAVE OF ANTI-US SENTIMENT WHICH WOULD SWEEP PORTUGAL. (COMMENT: IT IS OF INTEREST THAT PCP-DOMINATED PRESS IN LISBON IS GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO A SUPPOSED INCREASE OF INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT ACTIVITY IN THE AZORES.)

6. POSSIBILITY OF MOVE TO OUST GONCALVES: TOMAZ ROSA LAMENTS POLITICAL NAIVETE OF AFM OFFICERS WHICH PERMITTED PERVERSION OF APRIL 25 REVOLUTION BY PCP. ON JULY 10 TOMAZ ROSA ANTICI-

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SECRET

PAGE 03 LISBON 04141 231541Z

PATED THAT PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES SOON WOULD BE REMOVED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. NOTEWORTHY THAT TOMAZ ROSA NOW INDICATES SITUATION WITHIN RC HAS REACHED POINT, DUE TO PRESIDENT'S WEAKNESS AND VACILLATION, THAT GONCALVES PROBABLY ONLY CAN BE REPLACED BY FORCE. TOMAZ ROSA PROJECTED THAT CONTINUED ECONOMIC DETERIORATION WOULD MAKE CONDITIONS RIPE IN SEPTEMBER FOR AN EASY OVERTHROW OF GONCALVES AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY GROUP OF OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS STILL

DEDICATED TO ORIGINAL AFM PROGRAM. AMONG A NUMBER OF ARMY OFFICERS NAMED BY ROSA PREPARED TO SUPPORT MOVE AGAINST GONCALVES ARE THE COMMANDERS OF FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD MILITARY REGIONS (OPORTO, COIMBRA, AND EVORA), THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND OTHERS IN THE AIR FORCE, SOME OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND A FEW SELECTED OFFICERS IN THE NAVY. TOMAZ ROSA STATED THAT PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IS AWARE OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THESE OFFICERS BUT THAT PRESIDENT'S ROLE REMAINS AMBIGUOUS. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OTHER REPORTS WHICH WOULD TEND TO SUPPORT ANTI-GONCALVES SENTIMENTS BY THE ABOVE OFFICERS, IT IS NOT KNOWN TO WHAT EXTENT RECENT EVENTS MAY HAVE ALTERED THEIR VIEWS. POSITION OF BRIGADIER CORVACHO, COMMANDER OF NORTHERN MILITARY REGION, IS BELIEVED BY DAO TO BE DIFFERENT THAN ALLEGED BY ROSA.)

7. ROSA SOUGHT OUR COMMENTS TO WHICH EMBOFFS EMPHASIZED EMBASSY'S POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS, TOGETHER WITH OBSERVATION THAT USG HOPEFUL THAT PORTUGAL WILL DECIDE UPON DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. EMBASSY NOTED THAT POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE NATURALLY GREATER TO A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.
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